

REMARKS

Claims 1-5, 15-20 and 27 are pending. By this Amendment, claim 5 is amended. The amendments to claim 5 introduce no new matter as support for the amendments is found at least at page 5, lines 9-12 of the specification as originally filed. Claim 34 is canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of, the subject matter recited in that claim.

Reconsideration based on the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

The Office Action, in paragraph 11, states that claims 1-4, 15-20 and 27 are allowed. Applicants appreciate the allowance of the enumerated claims.

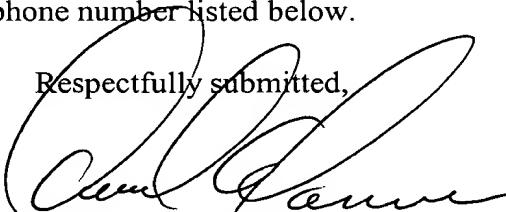
The Office Action, in paragraph 10, rejects claims 5 and 34 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Claim 5 is amended to obviate the rejection. Claim 34 is canceled rendering the rejection of that claim moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 5 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, are respectfully requested.

It is noted that, although claim 34 is canceled, any products including the features of claim 34 are nonetheless encompassed within the scope of claim 1. The cancellation of claim 34 does not constitute a disclaimer as to such products.

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claim 5, in addition to the previously allowed claims 1-4, 15-20 and 27 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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WPB:DAT

Attachments:

Petition for Extension of Time

Date: December 29, 2004

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